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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TRUCK COMPANY OWNER SENTENCED
TO 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Tennyson Harris, age 34, a Jamaican national and resident of New York, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte to 360 months incarceration for conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute over 3000 kilograms of marijuana.

According to testimony presented at trial, Harris co-owned the TC Trucking Company located in Damascus, Maryland during the late 1990s, and used tractor trailers belonging to the company to transport thousands of pounds of marijuana from California and Arizona to points along the East Coast, including New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Several truck drivers employed by the TC Trucking Company, as well as members of a Jamaican drug trafficking organization calling itself the "Champagne Crew" and operating in Arizona and New York, testified at trial that Harris orchestrated the transportation of large quantities of marijuana by using the tractor trailers and reselling the marijuana in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Additionally, testimony was presented at trial about the seizure of marijuana from TC Trucks all over the country, including

seizures in California and Texas. On August 29, 2002, a jury found Harris guilty of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute marijuana.

During the sentencing hearing today, U.S. District Judge Messitte found that Harris orchestrated the transportation of over 3000 kilograms of marijuana and that Harris's sentence should be increased because of his role as a manager of the drug organization and his possession of guns. All of Harris's codefendants have either pleaded guilty or been convicted following a jury trial.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Customs Service, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Prince George's County Police Department, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office in California, the California Highway Patrol, the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office in Texas, the Greensboro Police Department in North Carolina and the Las Vegas Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Mythili Raman and Steven M. Dunne.